

RECOVERY WEEKLY CHECK-IN

WITH DMPED

Economic Recovery Updates

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2020

Welcome

Deputy Mayor John Falcicchio
Planning and Economic Development (DMPED)

Food Security in the District: Responding to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

Ona Balkus, Food Policy Director, DC Office of
Planning (OP)

Report Goals



Coronavirus Support Emergency Amendment Act of 2020, signed by Mayor Bowser on May 27:



“By July 15, 2020, the Food Policy Director ... shall make publicly available a study that evaluates and makes recommendations regarding **food access needs during and following the COVID-19 public health emergency**, including:

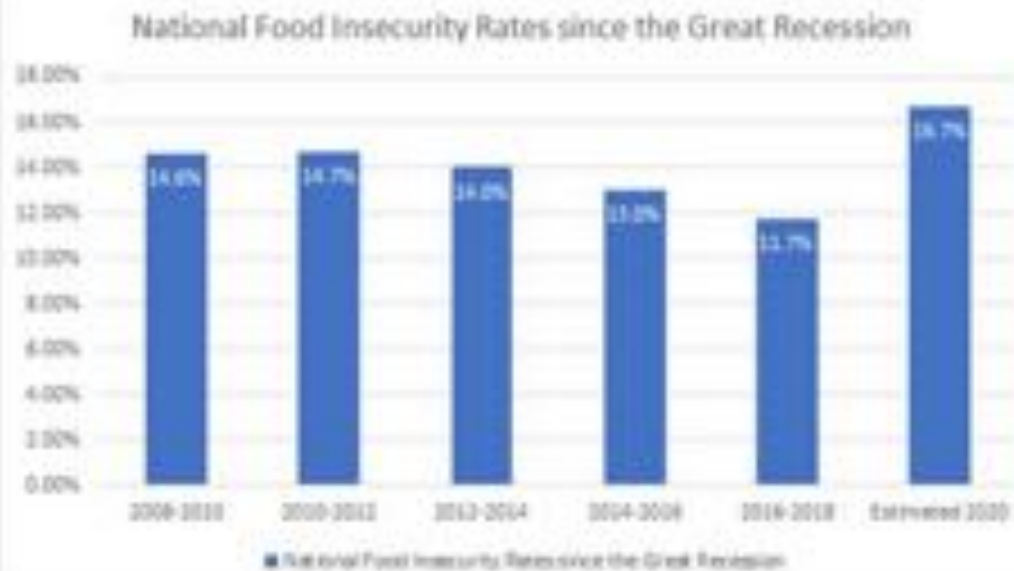
1. An **analysis of current and projected food insecurity rates**, based on data compiled across District agencies; and
2. A **plan for how to address food needs** during and following the public health emergency.”

**“Food insecurity” is defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life.*



DATA

Key Findings National Data

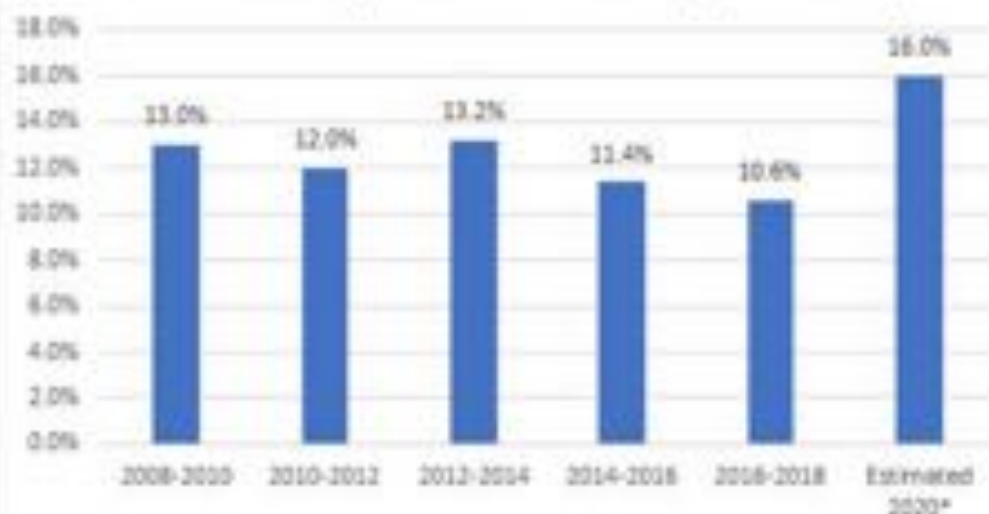


Nationally, food insecurity rates have **doubled** since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Pre-COVID: 11.1%
- June 2020: 21.9%
- Forecasted 2020: 16.7%

Key Findings District Data

Food insecurity rates in the District (2008-2020)



In the District, food insecurity rates have nearly doubled.

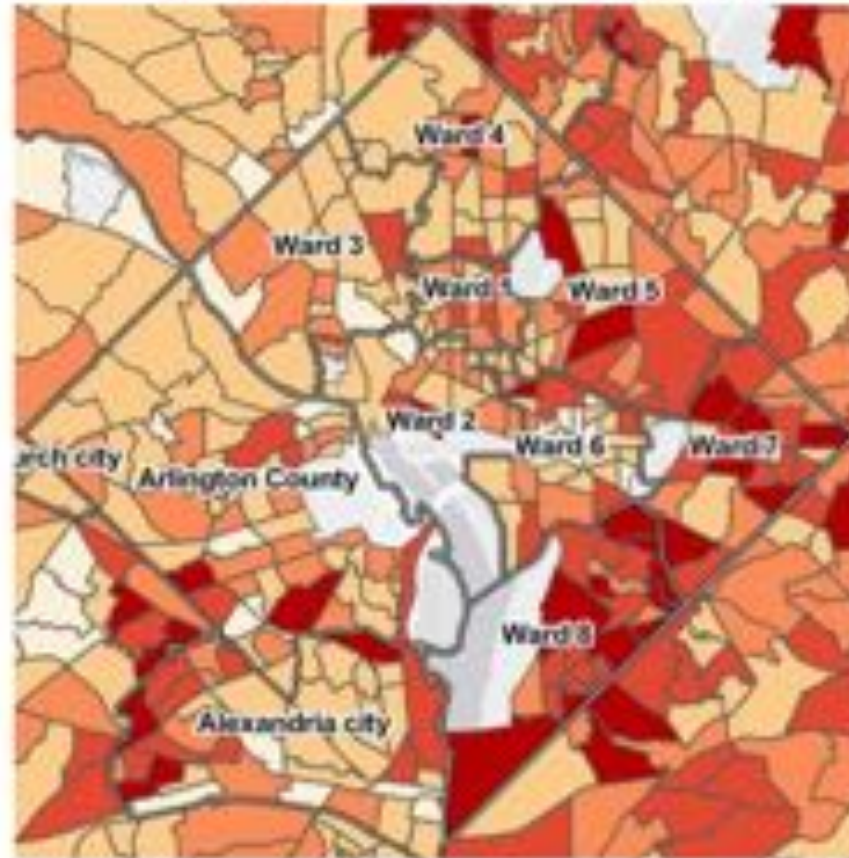
- Pre-COVID: 10.6%
- June 2020: 21.1%
- Forecasted 2020: 16.0% (113,000 residents)
- Forecasted 2020 children: 28.6% (37,000 children)

Data

Pre-COVID Food Insecurity



2020 Predicted Food Insecurity

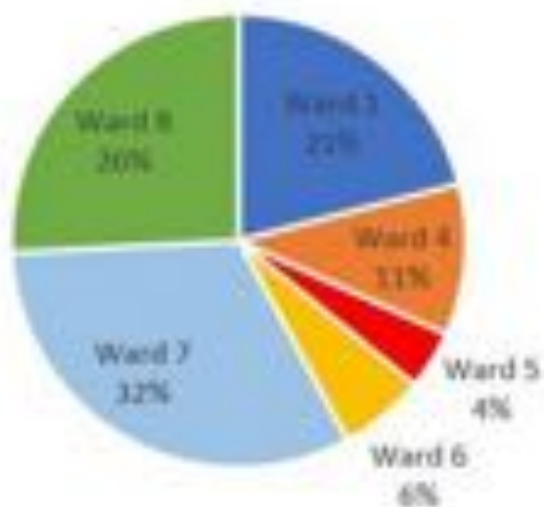


Source: CAFB 2020
Hunger Report

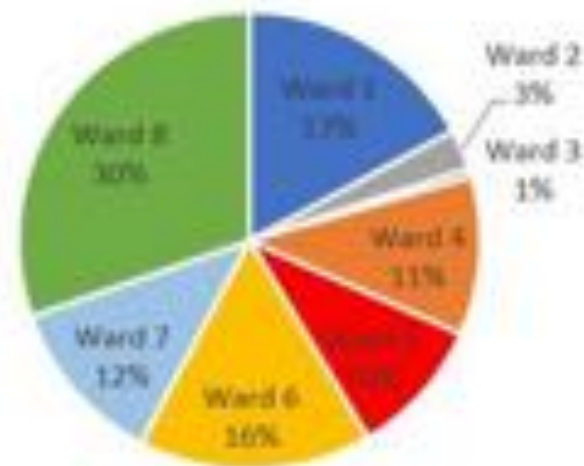


Demand for Emergency Food Programs

Total Grocery Bags Distributed
(4/12-6/8)



Total School Meals Served
(3/16-6/11)





Disproportionate Impact by Population



Certain District residents are disproportionately impacted:

- **Black households**
- **Seniors**
- **Families with children**
- **Immigrants**
- **Food/hospitality sector workers**



RESPONSE

The District's Emergency Response

Overview: Emergency Food Distributed by the District

Grab-and-Go School Meals at DCPS Schools	625,000
Grocery Bags at DCPS Schools	24,645
Senior Meals Delivered	451,586
Get Help Hotline Grocery Deliveries	2,997
Meals for Unsheltered Individuals	32,679

Note: Data on emergency food distributed comes from District agencies and reflects data captured from the March to early June.

Sources: DCPS, OACS, EDC, DHD, June-July 2020.



Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs

- **Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)** The District has distributed P-EBT to 46,029 children, about 67% of the children eligible.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):** 78,767 residents enrolled, up from 64,966 pre-COVID.
- **Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC):** 15,160 residents enrolled, up from 14,898 pre-COVID.
- **Farmers Markets Programs:** WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (~17,500 residents) & the DC Health-funded Produce Plus Program (4,000 residents)

**Note: All data based on June/July 2020 reporting.*



Emergency Food Operations

Snapshot of Non-Profit Organization Emergency Food Operations in the District



Name of Organization	Estimated Number of Meals Distributed
Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food & Agriculture	4,800
Capital Area Food Bank**	3,554,238
DC Central Kitchen**	1,035,259
DC Food Project	320,000
DC Greens	3,120
Dreaming Out Loud	190,000
Food & Friends	204,728
Food Rescue US-DC	12,124
FreshFarm	18,470
Martha's Table**	417,500
Oasis Community Partners**	363,000
United Planning Organization	7,336
World Central Kitchen	1,017,297
YMCA of Metropolitan Washington	7,576

Source: Organizations, July 2020. * Many organizations distributed grocery bags, so these figures are estimates of meals produced with those grocery bags. **The figures for these organizations include meals and groceries prepared through a District government contract.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Selected Recommendations for Continued Emergency Response



- **Maximize federal nutrition funding** by ensuring every District resident benefits from programs for which they qualify.
- **Expand public/private partnerships to increase funding for food assistance** over the next year, with a focus on local Black- and Latinx-led organizations.
- **Leverage the purchasing power of public and private institutions** to help small and Black- and Latinx-owned food businesses recover.
- **Expand transportation options for grocery shopping and delivery**, such as the Department of For Hire Vehicles' Taxi-to-Rail FY 2020 pilot, which provided free taxi rides for residents in Wards 7 and 8 to grocery stores.

Selected Recommendations for Food System Change & Planning

- **Increase healthy food options in Wards 7 and 8, with a focus on supporting local Black-owned food businesses.**
- **Ensure that all District government food procurement contracts promote health equity, environmental sustainability, and the local food economy.**
- **Implement Mayor Bowser's *Strategy to Strengthen the DC Food Workforce* to support job growth and career pathways in the food sector.**
- **Increase affordable commercial kitchen space, cold storage, storefronts, and retail opportunities for small food businesses.**



**Executive Summary and Full Report
available at:
dcfoodpolicy.org/foodsecurity2020 :**



Community Organization Guest Panelists

Mireille Lopez-Humes, Deputy Chief Program Officer, Martha's Table

Chris Bradshaw, Executive Dir., Dreaming Out Loud & DC Food Policy Council Member

Michael Curtain, Executive Director, DC Central Kitchen

Martha's Table

**Mireille Lopez-Humes, Deputy Chief Program
Officer, Martha's Table**

Martha's Table

Martha's  **Table** | **40** years strong
EDUCATION • FOOD • OPPORTUNITY

At Martha's Table, we believe that every Washingtonian deserves the opportunity to thrive.

We focus on:



Health & Wellness
We fight for food justice by increasing access to healthy food.



Education
We offer nationally accredited education programs beginning at birth.



Family Leaders
We promote family success by partnering with caregivers and providing fundamental resources.

Our COVID-19 Response: Supporting The Whole Family

Cash & Essential Family Resources:

March through June: 137 enrolled families

- \$9,000/family in direct cash assistance
- \$1,200/family in grocery store gift cards
- 4-month supply of diapers, wipes, and formula

July and Beyond: Up to 500 families

- \$5,500/family in direct cash assistance
- Weekly dry goods and groceries
- Assistance navigating public and private resources
- THRIVE East of the River Partnership



Our COVID-19 Response: Supporting The Whole Family

Child Development & Education:

- Daily activity guides
- Developmental toys and resources
- Weekly discovery play dates
- Virtual “circle time”
- Daily 1:1 calls with parents

“To receive a stipend from your child’s school...it’s like...wow! With the groceries and the delicious meals, it’s huge. Martha’s Table cares about us”
— Jalisa, MT Parent



Healthy Food Access

- **203,000 grocery bags** distributed March through August
- **More than 2 million meals** served
- **400% increase** in grocery distribution
- **10,000 D.C. residents** supported weekly
- **At 18 grocery access sites** across the city
- **Plus warm meals, sandwiches, and healthy snacks every evening** to neighbors experiencing housing instability



Dreaming Out Loud

Chris Bradshaw, Executive Dir., Dreaming Out Loud
& DC Food Policy Council Member

D.C. Central Kitchen

Michael Curtain, Executive Director, DC Central Kitchen

D.C. Central Kitchen



WWW.DCCENTRAALKITCHEN.ORG/COVID-19

What We're Doing

- Serving nutritious meals to children at **schools in Wards 6, 7, and 8**
- Delivering **tens of thousands of healthy meals** to local shelters, senior citizens, and front-line nonprofits each week
- Distributing **5,000 bags of fresh, local produce** at schools and partner nonprofits each week
- Providing **deeply discounted fresh produce** to corner stores
- Supporting **grassroots mutual aid networks**
- **Sustaining nearly 20 new jobs** at DCCK and through Get Shift Done while investing in living wages and healthcare for our staff



Partnering with District Government

- Operating feeding sites at 6 **DC Public Schools**
- Delivering healthy food to 55 corner stores in partnership with **DC Health** with special incentives for SNAP customers
- Distributing 1,500 bags of fresh produce each week at 4 school locations thanks to the **Office of Planning & DC Food Policy Council**
- Worked with **OSSE** to set up 9 mobile feeding sites through the summer food service program
- Ramped up meals for shelters and switched to individually packaged meals in partnership with **Department of Human Services**



Open Discussion

Q & A

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